

Dalreoch Farm, Dunning Archaeological Evaluation: Data Structure Report

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ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Dalreoch Farm, Dunning: Evaluation Data Structure Report

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation, carried out within the area of a proposed development at Dalreoch Farm, Dunning, recorded a series of rubble and tile field drains across the site and linear cut features towards the western end of the proposed development area. The linear cut features may represent the basal remains of in-filled open ditch field drains, or possibly the remains of a relict field system.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A programme of archaeological works comprising trial trench evaluation was required by Yeoman McAllister Architects on behalf of John Marshall & Sons client ahead of a redevelopment at Dalreoch Farm, Dunning, Perth and Kinross (Planning Application No. 08/01178/FUL). The proposed development area occupies an area of approximately 2.26 ha and is centred at NGR: NO 0033 1658 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The area lies within the administrative jurisdiction of Perth & Kinross Council. The need for, and scope of archaeological works had been determined by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, (PKHT), archaeological advisors to Perth and Kinross Council. PKHT recommended a 5% sample intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area. The work required was in accordance with SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994), in order to determine the nature, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

1.1 Site Location

1.1.1 The site in its recent history been in use as arable farmland but is presently in use as pasture. The site lies approximately 250 m south of Dalreoch Farm (NGR: NO 0033 1658) and is rectangular in plan, aligned north-east to south-west (Figure 1). The south-eastern boundary is formed by a railway embankment whilst the north eastern boundary is demarcated by the B9141 road. The remaining boundaries to the development give way to further arable/pasture fields, with the north-western edge of the development marked by a post and wire fence.

1.2 Archaeological Background

1.2.1 There previously were no known archaeological sites within the confines of the development area or within the immediate vicinity. However as the cartographic evidence suggests that the site had been undeveloped there was therefore a possibility of surviving unknown buried archaeological features being impacted by groundworks associated with the build programme. The Strathearn region is known for the considerable number of archaeological sites identified along the valley floor and river terraces. Therefore the potential existed for as yet undiscovered archaeology to exist at locations such as the development site, which were equally as conducive to human settlement in the past, positioned on the alluvial terraces near the River Earn (O'Grady, 2009).

2 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i) to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*.

3 METHOD

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The trial trench evaluation was designed fully to meet the requirements of the Perth & Kinross Council as advised by PKHT. The proposed development site covers an area of some 2.26 ha with intrusive evaluation trenching constituting no less than 1,130 m² (combined basal area of all trenches) representing a 5% sample of the area.

3.2 Evaluation Trenching

3.2.1 The evaluation was carried out through the excavation of linear trenches using a machine equipped with a 2 m wide ditching bucket. Figure 2 shows the *Trench Location* plan.

3.2.2 The trial trenching was carried out to establish the extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features present. Trenches were excavated by machine down to the first significant archaeological horizon or to natural subsoil. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist. Ancillary trenches were excavated, in areas of archaeological discovery to establish the full lateral extent of any significant archaeological material.

3.2.3 All trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures Archaeological features were photographically recorded digitally Appendix 3). A full description of all excavated contexts is presented in Appendix 2. Appendix 5 contains a copy of the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry.

4 RESULTS

4.1 The following text should be read in conjunction with the trench descriptions in Appendix 1 and the context descriptions given in Appendix 2. The trench locations are shown in Figure 2.

4.2 The trench locations were altered slightly due to stockpiled materials on the south-eastern part of the site and a recently formed access road (Figure 2), part of the eastern end of the study area was under barley. The total basal area of the trenching amounted to 1,246 m². The work was undertaken between 25th and 26th August in sunny and wet weather conditions. Archaeological visibility was nevertheless good. Plough marks were visible, in most of the trenches, at the interface between the base of the topsoil and the top of the natural clay and sands. A number of amorphous, shallow features were investigated, these were found to be either geological in origin or layers of shallow topsoil lying in undulations in the natural clay.

4.3 Two linear cuts [1303] and [1305] were recorded in Trench 13 (Figure 2 and 3, Plate 3 and 4). The first [1303] was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 2 m long (excavated) by 0.42 m wide by 0.05 m deep and was filled by a dark grey silty clay with charcoal staining [1304]. This feature continued below the trench edges to the east and west and was recorded to the west in Trench 14 as [1400], although here the cut was less well defined and had been partially truncated by the insertion of a tile field drain (Figure 2, Plate 5). No evidence of this cut was recorded to the east of Trench 13 despite the excavation of an additional trench, Trench 22 to determine the extent of this feature. The second linear cut found in Trench 13, [1305] was aligned north to south this was

recorded over a distance of 3.63 m and measured 0.4 m wide by 0.17 m deep. This was filled by a dark grey silty clay with patches of charcoal staining [1306]. Extra trenches to determine the extent of this feature to the south proved unrewarding although a probable continuation of [1305] was recorded to the north in Trench 22, as cut [2200] (Figure 2 and 3, Plate 6). Here the cut was considerably shallower, 0.07 m deep, and filled by a pale brown silty clay devoid of conspicuous inclusions [2201] The cut measured 6.06 m long by 0.47 m wide and continued below the trench edges to the north and south.

- 4.4 Although narrow rubble filled and tile field drains were found in many of the trenches excavated across the site the remaining evaluation trenches were found to be archaeologically sterile.

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The evaluation recorded two, possibly three, shallow, discontinuous linear cut features towards the western end of the site. No finds were recovered from any of the fills of these features during excavation, therefore the period from which they date is unknown. Functionally it seems possible that they may form the basal remains of part of an in-filled open ditch drainage system that pre-dated the insertion of rubble and later ancillary tile field drains. Alternatively they may represent the ephemeral remains of part of a relict field system, although no evidence of any further features associated with the linear cuts was found.

6 REFERENCES

SOEnd 1994 Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures. January 1994. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SPP23 2008 Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning. Nov.2008.

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Section 1: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	32 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.38 m deep. A ground investigation test-pit was visible at the north-west end of the trench. No archaeological features
2	31.2 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.38 m deep. No archaeological features
3	30 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.36 m deep. Rubble drains aligned N-S and E-W. No archaeological features
4	31.8 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NE-SW. Topsoil up to 0.36 m deep. Rubble drains aligned N-S. No archaeological features
5	31 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.36 m deep. No archaeological features
6	31 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NE-SW. Topsoil up to 0.38 m deep. Rubble drains aligned N-S and ENE-WSW. No archaeological features
7	35 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.38 m deep. Tile and rubble drains aligned N-S. No archaeological features
8	30 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NE-SW. Topsoil up to 0.36 m deep. Tile and rubble drains aligned N-S. No archaeological features
9	32.7 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NE-SW. Topsoil up to 0.32 m deep. Tile and rubble drains aligned N-S. No archaeological features.
10	31 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NE-SW. Topsoil up to 0.36 m deep. A ground investigation test-pit was visible at the north-east end of the trench. No archaeological features
11	35 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.34 m deep. No archaeological features
12	31.2 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.38 m deep. Rubble drain aligned N-S. No archaeological features
13	41 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.38 m deep. Rubble and tile drain aligned N-S. Linear cuts 1303 and 1305
14	33 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.36 m deep. Rubble and tile drains aligned N-S and E-W. Linear cut 1400
15	29 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NE-SW. Topsoil up to 0.36 m deep. No archaeological features
16	30 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.32 m deep. No archaeological features
17	17 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NE-SW. Topsoil up to 0.36 m deep. No archaeological features
18	30 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned N-S. Topsoil up to 0.38 m deep. No archaeological features
19	13 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NE-SW. Topsoil up to 0.34 m deep. No archaeological features
20	11 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned E-W. Topsoil up to 0.36 m deep. No archaeological features.
21	6.4 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned E-W. Topsoil up to 0.38 m deep. No archaeological features
22	13 m long x 2 m wide. Aligned NW-SE. Topsoil up to 0.38 m deep. Linear cut 2200

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT REGISTER

<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench</i>
1303	Cut: Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW. Narrow, shallow, slightly concave U-shape in profile. Measured 2 m long (continued below trench edges to east and west) x 0.42 m wide x 0.05 m deep. Filled by 1304	13
1304	Deposit: Moist, firm, dark grey/brown silty clay with patches of charcoal staining, otherwise devoid of conspicuous inclusions. Measured 0.05 m deep. Fill of cut 1303	13
1305	Cut: Linear in plan, aligned N-S. Narrow, steep, slightly concave U-shape in profile, with a broad slightly rounded base. Measured 3.63 m long (continued below trench edges to north and south) x 0.40 m wide x 0.17 m deep. Filled by 1306	13
1306	Deposit: Moist, firm, dark grey/brown silty clay with patches of charcoal staining, otherwise devoid of conspicuous inclusions. Measured 0.17 m deep. Fill of cut 1305	13
1400	Cut: Linear in plan, aligned NE-SW. Truncated, poorly defined remains of linear cut 1303 continuing to the west from Trench 13. Measured 2 m long (continued below trench edges to the east and west) x 0.38 m wide x up to 0.05 m deep. Filled by 1401. Truncated by a tile drain aligned N-S	14
1401	Deposit: Moist, firm, dark grey/brown silty clay with patches of charcoal staining, occasional inclusions of small rounded stones <4 cm. Measured 0.17 m deep. Fill of cut 1400	
2200	Cut: Linear in plan, aligned N-S. Narrow, shallow, slightly concave U-shape in profile. Measured 6.06 m long (continued below trench edges to north and south) x 0.47 m wide x 0.07 m deep. Filled by 2201	22
2201	Deposit: Moist, firm, pale brown silty clay devoid of conspicuous inclusions. Measured 0.07 m deep. Fill of cut 2200	

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

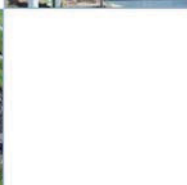
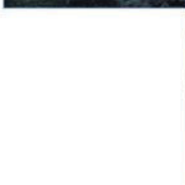
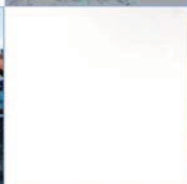
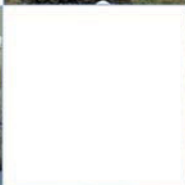
<i>Shot no.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
1	Registration	
2-3	General view of stockpiled material at the east end of site	SW
4-5	General view of recently formed access road at the east end of site	SW
6	General view Trench 1	SE
7	General view of Trench 3 showing rubbles drains	SE
8	General view of stockpiled material and access road at the east end of site	N
9	General view Trench 4	SW
10	General view Trench 5	SE
11	General view Trench 6	SW
12	General view Trench 7	N
13	General view Trench 2	SE
14	General view Trench 8	NE
15	General view Trench 9	SW
16	General view Trench 10	SW
17	General view Trench 11	SE
18	General view Trench 12	NW
19	General view Trench 13	SE
20	General view Trench 14	NW
21	General view Trench 15	NE
22	General view Trench 16	SE
23	General view Trench 17	SE
24	General view Trench 18	SW
25-26	North-facing section through linear cut 1305, Trench 13	N
27-28	North-facing section through linear cut 2200, Trench 22	N
29-30	West-facing section through linear cut 1303	W
31-32	Linear cut 1400, Trench 14	E

APPENDIX 4: SAMPLE REGISTER

<i>No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
001	TR 13	1304	Sample of material from fill of linear cut 1303	10 lts
002	TR 13	1306	Sample of material from fill of linear cut 1305	10 lts
003	TR 22	2201	Sample of material from fill of linear cut 2200	10 lts

APPENDIX 5: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dalreoch Farm, Dunning
PROJECT CODE:	21383
PARISH:	Dunning
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Hunter Blair
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NGR: NO 0033 1658
START DATE (this season)	25 th August 2009
END DATE (this season)	27 th August 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological evaluation, carried out within the area of a proposed development at Dalreoch Farm, Dunning, recorded a series of rubble and tile field drains across the site and linear cut features towards the western end of the proposed development. The linear cut features may represent the basal remains of in-filled open ditch field drains or relict field system.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	John Marshall & Sons
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.



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